

SHINING TIME STATION (w.t.)

EPISODE #9
(UNTITLED)

Working Draft
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Revised 4/22/88

From characters and series storyline
created by Britt Allcroft and
Rick Siggelkow

FADE IN:

MAIN SET -- IS EMPTY. BUT WE HEAR --

SFX -- TRAIN WHISTLE, TRAIN APPROACHING FAST. RUNS THROUGH THE STATION WITHOUT STOPPING (MORE WHISTLE?), OVER--

ANGLE IN PLATFORM ARCH: A BAG OF MAIL IS TOSSED BY UNSEEN HANDS FROM THE PLATFORM ONTO THE LANDING AREA UNDER THE ARCH. IT LANDS AND SITS THERE.

SFX -- THE TRAIN RECEDES INTO SILENCE. BEAT. THEN --

STACY ENTERS FROM LOST & FOUND, MATT AND TANYA DASH IN FROM THE STREET. ALL CONVERGE ON BAG.

STACY

Mail call!

MATT

Anything for me?

TANYA

Anything for me?

ANGLE ON THE STATION HOUSE -- MR. C. POPS OUT.

MR. C.

Anything for me?

STACY

Everybody wait a second.

(flipping through the letters)

Win a million dollars...Win a new
Car...win a trip to Tahiti...win
a trip to Vermont...



close name
to named names

HARRY SLOWLY EMERGES FORM HIS OFFICE, A BIT TENTATIVE
AND WITHDRAWN, UNDER --

STACY

...please give us money...please
give us money...please please
pretty please give us money...
there's nothing *except letters asking for money*

ANGLE ON MR. C. -- HE SEES HARRY AND --

MR. C.

Oh dear...

HE DISAPPEARS.

HARRY

Got anything for me there, Stacy?

STACY

I don't think so, Harry

(looks at last letter)

Nope. It's all junk mail. The
whole bag. Were you expecting
something?

HARRY

Not necessarily.

MATT

What's junk mail?

TANYA

Letters from companies who want
you to give them money. *or to buy something*

MATT

I thought those were bills.

STACY

Well, I guess bills are what you
have to pay, and junk mail is what
you don't have to pay for. Does
that sound right, Harry?

HARRY

Hm? Yep. Whatever you say.

HARRY TURNS AND GOES BACK TO HIS OFFICE.

STACY

Is something wrong with Harry?

MATT

He sure seems sad.

TANYA

Hey, wait a minute...Oh no! I
just remembered! It's Harry's
birthday!

STACY

Today! It's really--
(catches herself; in a whisper)
--it's really Harry's birthday?

TANYA

I forgot all about it!

SHE STARTS TOWARDS HARRY'S OFFICE. STACY SEES, MAKES A SNAP DECISION, AND HOLDS OUT A HAND TO STOP HER.

STACY

Whoa, Tanya! Where are you going?

TANYA

To say Happy Birthday to Grandpa.

STACY

I have a better idea. Let's throw a surprise party for him!

TANYA

Hey, yeah!

(THE KIDS BOTH GO RUNNING TOWARD HARRY'S OFFICE.)

STACY

~~SPACE~~ AAh! Tanya, Matt! Stop! The whole point of a surprise party is that the person you're having it for doesn't know about it until it starts. It's a surprise.

MATT

But... how do you do everything?

How do you keep the person from ~~finding~~ ~~findin~~ out?

STACY

That's the hard part. Of course,
if Harry stays in his office all
day it might not be that
hard....

TANYA

Can we go buy him a present?

STACY

I have a better idea. Let's all
make him something. An original
creation! I'll get some supplies--

SHE GOES TO THE WRONG DOOR, OPENS IT --

INSERT: CALIFORNIA SURFERS ON THEIR BOARDS-- WAVES,
BEACH, ETC. MUSIC IS GENERIC SURFER ROCK. STACY
SHUTS DOOR.

STACY

Sorry. Wrong door.

(as Matt moves toward arcade)

Where are you going?

MATT

We need some music if we're having
a party, right?

STACY

Right.

MATT GOES TO JUKE BOX, PUTS A NICKEL IN --

INT. JUKE BOX -- THE PUPPETS ARE POISED AT INSTRUMENTS.

BASS

Hey, did you hear that? It's
Harry's birthday.

PIANO

Oh, dear.

DRUMS

Oh dear what, babe?

PIANO

Well, we should play a song Harry
likes. What if the customer picks
the wrong selection?

REX

It is our professional duty to pay
whatever the customer selects,
little lady.

TEX

That's mighty nicely put, Rex.

REX

Thank you, Tex.

TEX

You're welcome, Rex.

DRUMS

Hey, don't you guys ever get
tired of this Tex-Rex business,
man?

REX
(beat; puzzled she should ask)

Why, no.

BASS

Heads up! Here it comes--

THE NICKEL DESCENDS.

The song is, "A Railroader for
Me."

PIANO

Oh, good. Harry will like that.

INTERCUT FROM PUPPETS PLAYING, TO MATT, TANYA, AND
STACY ASSEMBLING GIFTS. AFTER A BIT OF THIS

HARRY'S OFFICE -- HARRY IS SINGING ALONG, TO HIMSELF,
WHILE LEAFING THROUGH AN OLD ALBUM OF TRAIN
ILLUSTRATIONS OR PHOTOGRAPHS. INTERCUT WITH

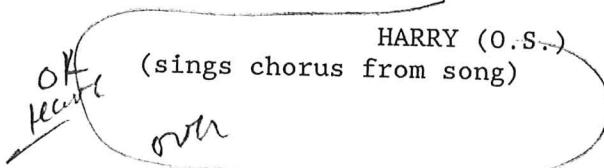
MAIN SET -- WHEN SOUND ENDS, WE ARE BACK HERE: THE
GIFTS ARE COMPLETED AND SIT IN ALMOST PLAIN SIGHT.

STACY

There. All we need now is
something to put them in--

HARRY (O.S.)

(sings chorus from song)



SHE LOOKS OVER TOWARD HARRY'S OFFICE, HEARS HIM COMING, REACTS WITH PANIC --

STACY

Yikes!

-- AND DASHES OVER TOWARD HIM UNDER --

HARRY

Say, uh, Stacy? Mind if we hear that tune again --?

STACY
(to the kids in whisper)

We can't let Harry see the presents.

(improvising)

Um, we can't, Harry, because, somebody, needs, something--

SHE TURNS TO DIRECT HIM TOWARD OUTSIDE AS KIDS SHIELD GIFTS WITH THEIR BODIES. HARRY LOOKS CRESTFALLEN.

HARRY

Who needs what?

STACY

--Schemer! Schemer needs a box of Cheese Giggles from the storeroom! For the snack machine on the platform.

HARRY

I just brought him up a box of
Cheese Giggles this morning.

STACY

But he needs another one. Would
you mind getting it? Please,
Harry?

HARRY THINKS ABOUT THIS A MOMENT, THEN SLOWLY AGREES,
AND STARTS MOVING TOWARD THE PLATFORM ARCH.

HARRY

I must be getting old. People
thinking up jobs for me to do just
to make me feel useful.

STACY WATCHES HIM MOVE THROUGH ARCH AND AWAY. SOME
REGRET AT HIS MOOD. THEN, BRISKLY--

STACY

Okay, kids. Let's get all this
together. We need a box--

MATT SPIES AN EMPTY CARTON AGAINST A WALL NEAR LOST
AND FOUND, DASHES OVER, HOLDS IT UP: CHEESE GIGGLES
LOGO ON IT.

MATT

How about this?

STACY

Perfect.

SHE AND TANYA PUT THE GIFTS INSIDE, THEN SHE FOLDS
OVER THE FLAPS TO CLOSE IT.

STACY (CONT'D)

We'd better figure out a place to
hide this --

ANGLE ON STATION HOUSE -- MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS,
WORRIED.

MR. C.

Well, it's a relief that's over
with.

MATT

Mr. Conductor! What happened?

MR. C.

You mean to say you didn't hear it?

TANYA

Hear what?

MR. C.

All the grumbling and fussing over
on the isle of Sodor?

STACY SUDDENLY PUTS THE BOX DOWN NEAR THE TICKET
BOOTH, VISIBLE FROM THE STREET ENTRANCE.

STACY

The only grumbling we hear is from
Harry. Anyway, I'll be right
back. I just got a terrific idea,
and I have to make a phone call.

SHE EXITS.

MR. C.

It was Gordon and the others.

They hadn't met Percy yet...

DISSOLVE TO:

THOMAS EPISODE 17 --"PERCY RUNS AWAY"

DISSOLVE TO:

MAIN SET -- MATT, TANYA, MR. C.

MATT

So now the other engines are
friends with Percy?

MR. C.

Oh, yes. They just had to get to
know him, that's all.

TANYA

Well, you can be friends with my
Grandpa. All you have to do is
get to know him.

Mr. C.,
you've been hiding from
Gordon - because you
thought he ~~would~~
would not believe
you're real

build point
explain motivation

MATT

Yeah! You can come to Harry's
surprise party. Don't tell him,
though. He's not suppose to know
about it. That's the whole point
of a surprise party.

MR. C.

Oh, dear. I don't know. He
might not like me. He's a very
private person, isn't he?

TANYA

I think he's just shy.

MATT

That's impossible. Grownups
aren't shy.

TANYA

Some grownups are.

MATT

Like who.

MR. C.

Like me.

MATT

Really?

MR. C.

I'm afraid so. Mind you, I'm not
happy about it. But there it is.

(as Stacy enters)

Hello, Stacy.

STACY

Hi, Mr. Conductor. Well, gang,
we're all set. Even we are going
to be surprised at this party. A
friend of mine is coming, and I
never know what sort of thing he's
going to do. He sings, he dances,
he tells stories--

(hears Harry returning from
platform)

Whoops! Mum's the word.

MR. C.

There's another word, too: 'Bye!

HE DISAPPEARS. HARRY ENTERS WITH CHEESE GIGGLES BOX.
SETS IT DOWN FRONT AND CENTER.

HARRY

Tell Schemer he can lug his own
boxes from now on. I'm getting
too old for this sort of thing.

STACY

That's the second time you've
said how old you're getting,
Harry. I don't know -- you look
pretty peppy to me.

HARRY
(after fixing her with a look)

I feel fine. But I don't feel too
darn "peppy." Guess I'm starting
to feel my years.

HE STARTS WALKING TOWARDS THE OFFICE.

ANGLE ON INFO DESK-- MR. C. APPEARS JUST AS HARRY
WALKS PAST.

MR. C.
(to himself)

Well, I suppose I could make an
effort. Hullo? Harry...? How do
you do --

HARRY STOPS, SCOWLS, LOOKS AROUND (THE OTHERS ARE
RAPT).

Harry
You hear something? Funny little
voice?

HE SHAKES HIS HEAD AND KEEPS WALKING.
MR. C. GATHERS COURAGE, VANISHES--

ANGLE ON ARCADE --AND REAPPEARS STANDING ON
NICKELODEON, JUST AS HARRY WALKS PAST.

MR. C.
Um...how do you do. Allow me to
introduce myself --

HARRY STOPS, LOOKS AROUND, GLIMPSES AT MR. C.

CU MR. CONDUCTOR -- IT'S TOO MUCH FOR HIM. HE MAKES A
FACE AND DISAPPEARS.

RESUME: HARRY -- SHAKES HIS HEAD. THEN, TO HIMSELF--

HARRY

Lord, I'm getting old. First
hearing voices, now I'm seeing
things.

HE GOES TO HIS OFFICE AND SHUTS THE DOOR.

ANGLE ON STATION HOUSE -- MR. C. APPEARS.

MR. C.

Well, I tried.

TANYA

No you didn't. Not very much.

MR. C.

But what if he doesn't like me?

He can be very gruff, you know.

STACY

(laughs; heads toward platform)

He seems that way, doesn't he?

But you know something, Mr.

Conductor? I think it's all an
act.

SHE EXITS TO PLATFORM. KIDS MOVE TO UNDER STATION
HOUSE.

MR. C.

Well if it's all an act, I must
say, he's a very good actor.

Pause here (don't interfere)
Give encouragement
to try again
Quote him

TANYA

Grandpa isn't acting. he really
is that way. All the time. He
likes to be by himself. He
doesn't need a bunch of friends
and stuff.

MATT

Everybody needs friends. Even
Harry.

MR. C.

You don't know how right you are,
Matt. Everybody needs someone
else -- even tank engines. Thomas
discovered the hard way how much
he needed his driver...

DISSOLVE TO:

THOMAS EPISODE 44 -- "THOMAS COMES TO BREAKFAST"

DISSOLVE TO:

MATT SET -- KIDS AND MR. C.

MATT
But there's one thing I don't
understand, Mr. Conductor. Does
that story mean you shouldn't try
and do things on your own?

MR. C.

Oh, my world, no. It just means
that there are some things no one
can do on their own. A train
can't run itself, no matter how
confident it feels --

STACY (O.S.)

Matt? Tanya? Could you come here
for a minute?

MR. C.

Better go see what Stacy wants.

We'll talk about this later.

MATT

Okay.

THE KIDS SKIP OFF THROUGH THE ARCH TO PLATFORM. MR.
C. SPIES SOMEONE ENTERING FROM THE STREET

MR. C.

So there he is. I was wondering
when he'd show up. Oh well...

--AND HE DISAPPEARS.

SCHEMER ENTERS FROM STREET.

SCHEMER

Hey, it's me! Anybody here?
(beat; to himself)

SCHEMER (cont'd)

Oh, very nice. A public facility
like this, and nobody's on duty.

HE LOOKS AROUND, SEES THE GIFT-CARTON NEAR TICKET
BOOTH.

SCHEMER (CONT'D)

I love these stupid things...

(he stops, thinks)

Ah, and why not. Considering all
I do for this place, they can let
me take home a crummy case of
Cheese Giggles.

HE TAKES BOX BACK OUT THROUGH STREET ENTRANCE. BEAT.

ANGLE ON PLATFORM ARCH — MATT, TANYA, AND STACY
ENTER, CARRYING CREPE PAPER STREAMERS, TAPE, BAGS OF
CONFETTI, BALLOONS, WHATEVER

STACY

Okay, I'm going to start putting
up the decorations. You two think
about what we can do for a cake.
Let's see, I'll need the ladder...

SHE EXITS TO LOST AND FOUND AS MATT AND TANYA LOOK
STUMPED.

TANYA

What are we suppose to do -- make
a cake by magic? I don't even
know how to make a cake.

MATT

Well... we could try looking
down the Anything Tunnel.

TANYA SKEPTICALLY STOMPS OVER TO IT, UNDER --

TANYA

Come on, Matt. There's not going
to be any cake in here --

THEY LOOK DOWN THE TUNNEL.

CUT TO:

INSERT: ANIMATION OF CAKE BEING MADE.

CUT TO:

MAIN SET -- KIDS TAKE CAKE OUT OF DOORWAY (OR HOWEVER
TRANSITION IS TO BE MADE), CLOSE DOOR, AND LOOK AT
EACH OTHER IN SHOCK DELIGHT, AFTER A BEAT, STACY
ENTERS FROM LOST AND FOUND WITH LADDER.

MATT

Aunt Stacy, look! From the
Anything Tunnel!

STACY

It's what I've been saying all
along-- Shining Time is no
ordinary train station.

SHE STOPS, LOOKS AT BOX IN CENTER OF FLOOR, THEN AT
WALL WHERE GIFT BOX USED TO BE. FROWNS.

STACY (CONT'D)

Uh-oh...Tanya, what's in the box.

TANYA GROWS INSTANTLY WORRIED AND RUNS OVER, OPENS THE BOX.

STACY (CONT'D)

Birthday presents? Or Cheese

Giggles?

TANYA

Cheese Giggles.

STACY

I think our friend Schemer came
while we were gone, and took the
wrong box.

TANYA

You mean he took the presents!?

STACY

Shhhh! Maybe he'll bring them
back.

MATT

He won't bring them back! He's
Schemer!

TANYA

He'll try to sell them!

STACY

Shhh! Don't panic. Let's just
stop for a minute and think of
what we can do.

MATT

Maybe Harry would like the box of
Cheese Giggles.

TANYA

We'll never see those presents
again. Schemer could have sold
them by now!

STACY

Okay. Let's say we have to make
them again. Is that so terrible?
Come on, we'll put another song on
the juke box, we'll find some more
materials -- it'll be fun! Let's
GO! (kids don't move) Please?

BOTH KIDS HEAVE MELODRAMATIC SIGHS. SUDDENLY, SCHEMER BURSTS IN FROM THE STREET, WITH BOX. ALL STARE AT IT.

SCHEMER

Hey, Miss Jones, where were ya
ten minutes ago? I came in, the
place was empty. What if some
customer needed change for the
arcade? (sees them looking at box)
What's everybody looking at?
This? I thought it was a carton

SCHEMER (cont'd)

of Cheese Giggles, Turns out it's
a bunch of...I don't know...
handmade things.

STACY OPENS HER MOUTH TO SPEAK, BUT IS INTERRUPTED BY--
ANGLE ON HARRY'S OFFICE--HARRY STEPS OUT OF DOOR.

HARRY

Is that Schemer out here?
Listen, mister, the next time you
want stuff brought up from
downstairs, you can do it
yourself.

STACY STRIDES FORWARD, WAVES SCHEMER QUIET, AND STEERS
HARRY BACK INTO HIS OFFICE.

STACY

Uh, Harry? Have you fixed that
ticket puncher yet?

HARRY

Not yet.

STACY

Could you take another look? Or
should I send it out to be
fixed...?

HARRY

No need to send it out. I'll fix
the ticket puncher.

HARRY GOES BACK IN HIS OFFICE AND SHUTS THE DOOR. ALL BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF EXCEPT BAFFLED SCHEMER.

SCHEMER

What's he talking about? I didn't
ask him to bring anything up.
Besides, there's no Cheese Giggles
in this carton. It's full of --

TANYA

--birthday presents.

SCHEMER

-- yeah, right, birthday presents.
(beat)
Somebody having a birthday?

MATT

Harry. We're having a surprise
party for him. Those are the
presents we made.

SCHEMER

Oh. Well, isn't that nice. I
myself don't really care for
surprise parties, but you guys go
ahead, live it up.

STACY

Have ever you been to one,
Schemer?

SCHEMER

Well...no, not literally.

STACY

Ever been invited to one?

(off his head-shake "no")

Kids?

(beat--they hesitate)

Kids?

TANYA

Would you like to come to my
Grandpa's surprise party?

SCHEMER

Depends. When is it?

STACY

Right now.

SHE MARCHES TO HARRY'S DOOR. KIDS GET OUT GIFTS AND CAKE.

SCHEMER

But I don't have a present to
give him.

MATT

Why don't you give him some
nickles for the jukebox?

SCHEMER

Money! You mean give him some
money.

STACY

What a great idea, Schemer. Harry
loves to play the jukebox.

SCHEMER

All right. All right. I know
when I'm licked.

(to himself)

Besides, I'll get it back anyways.

STACY (CONT'D)

Harry? Could you come out for a
second?

HE APPEARS AT DOOR. STACY LEADS HIM OUT.

HARRY

Now what? Can't a man work in
peace?

STACY

Somebody wants to tell you
something.

THEY ARRIVE AT THE OTHERS, WHO HIDE GIFTS BEHIND BACKS.

HARRY

Well? What is it?

ALL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HARRY IS TOUCHED. HE SEES GIFTS, ETC.

INSERT: CU MR. CONDUCTOR AT STATION HOUSE, SMILING AT THE PROCEEDINGS AND MAKING UP HIS MIND ABOUT SOMETHING.

RESUME -- HARRY -- AS HE SPEAKS, SFX: TRAIN ARRIVING BUILDS IN BACKGROUND.

HARRY

Well, sir. This is mighty nice.

Yes, sir. I guess maybe I was a little irritable today,
but...well, it's always good to know that there are people who care about you, so...Thank you.

TANYA KISSES HIM AS SFX: TRAIN WHISTLE SOUNDS. STACY POINTS TO PLATFORM WITH ONE HAND, READS WATCH ON OTHER.

STACY

Right on time.

ANGLE ON PLATFORM: ENTERTAINER APPEARS

ENTERTAINER
Is there a gentlemen named Harry here? I've come to sing in your honor, sir.

INSERT: ENTERTAINER DOES SONG, ETC. AT END OF SONG

CUT TO:

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE -- LATER. HARRY IS SITTING,
REFLECTING. MR CONDUCTOR ENTERS TENTATIVELY.

MR. C.

Excuse me...Harry?

HARRY TURNS SLOWLY, SEES HIM, FROWNS, TURNS AWAY, THEN
TURNS TO STARE AT HIM.

HARRY

You for real?

MR. C.

As real as you are.

HARRY

Was that you I saw before?

(off his nod)

Well, that's a relief, at least.

But what do you do here?

MR. C.

I live here, don't I? I've been
living here since the day the
Mimosa Limited made her first run.

HARRY

You saw the Mimosa?

MR. C.

You know the story of John Travis
and the coin?

HARRY

I sure do! It was a
twenty-dollar gold piece, wasn't
it?

MR. C.

Five dollars. Travis put the
coin on a rail and said the Mimosa
was so smooth she could stop next
to it and not leave enough space
for the ace of diamonds. I
watched the whole thing. He put
the coin down, drove the engine,
put on the brakes, tooted the
whistle, and she came to a dead
stop flush up against the coin.
You couldn't fit a hair between
the gold and the wheel. I know
because I tried.

HARRY

They were wonderful machines back
then.

MR. C.

Some of them still are.

HARRY

I suppose. But it's different.
Railroad's like me. Old and on
the way out.

MR. C.

That's not what I see. I see
useful, dependable, and still
going strong.

HARRY

Well... you know, I'd give
anything to have seen the Mimosa
Limited, maybe take her on a run.

MR. C.

Well, I can't bring back the
train...but I can show you what
she looked like under a full head.

HARRY
(suspicious)

How?

MR. C.

That's my secret, Harry.
Interested?

HARRY

Yes, sir, I am. By the way, I
didn't catch your name.

MR. C.

Mr. Conductor, at your service.

take a look at that schedule board
up there. See anything?

HARRY

Keep looking. You will.

ANGLE ON OFFICE -- SLOWLY, IMAGE OF MOVING TRAIN
APPEARS ON BOARD/SCREEN. HARRY WATCHES, RAPT. MR. C.
ALSO SETTLES IN TO WATCH, AS

MUSIC UP, AND --

CLOSING CREDITS